



Draper Dragon Flyer

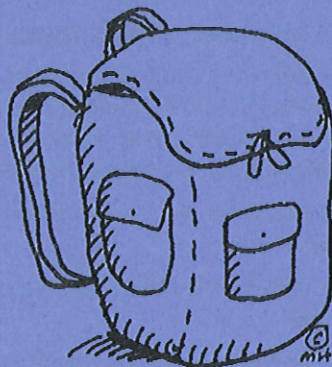
PTA President's Message: Prepare Your Children for Emergencies

With the recent weather problems that stranded several Utah County students at their school or on their bus, I'm reminded of the importance of being prepared. I thought about those students and the needs they had — particularly the ones on the bus away from the emergency supplies at the school. I knew they were hungry. Some might have been cold. Others may have been thirsty.

A little preparation can keep a bad situation from becoming a terrible one. I suggest every family put together small emergency kits that their children can keep in their backpacks. Along with items that meet the

specific needs of your children, the kits could include the following:

- Mylar emergency blanket (looks like tin foil)
- One packet of hand warmers
- Band aids (variety of sizes)
- Food (such as a granola bar)
- Water



In addition, sending your children to school properly dressed for the weather (i.e., gloves, hat, etc. in the winter) is an important part of preparation.

Don't forget to put a kit in your car as well!

Kristi Bowler, PTA President

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Calendar Check

February

- ✓ 29 No School

March

- ✓ 5-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- ✓ 7 No School
- ✓ 11 Biz Town (5th grade)
- ✓ 13 Dads & Donuts, 7:30am
- ✓ 13 PTA Board Meeting, 9am
- ✓ 18 Boys' Maturation Night, 7pm
- ✓ 20-24 Spring Recess, No School
- ✓ 28 Art Through the Ages

April

- ✓ 4 Kindergarten Orientation
- ✓ 7 Art Through the Ages
- ✓ 10 Dads & Donuts, 7:30am
- ✓ 10 PTA Board Meeting, 9am

Principal's Message:

Tips for Encouraging Student Success ALL Year Long

Here are some tips for helping students stay focused when the days turn dark and cold.

1) Create a safe place to communicate. Let your children know you are available for them to discuss any concerns and process any academic questions they may have.

2) Create an environment at home that models a love of learning. It is important to role-model the behaviors we seek in our children. Not only does this create trust and respect between parent and child, it sets the stage for the development of effective and positive habits. For instance, children who have parents who read are more likely to read themselves.

3) Provide your child with all the tools she needs to stay organized throughout the year. For instance, a day calendar or a chalkboard that is hung in a convenient place in your home is very helpful for writing all the upcoming assignments, quizzes and school activities. A quiet, established place to study with commonly needed supplies facilitates this important work for children.

4) Provide academic support. Students who have one or more parents involved in their education are more likely to do well in school. Ask your child if there are ways you can be of assistance and try to be as available and supportive to his needs as

possible. If your schedule is too busy, consider simplifying schedules and make academic issues a priority.

5) Make attendance at school a priority. Missing instructional time cannot be made up with a worksheet. School instruction is a dynamic and interactive experience. When children are late, they miss the advanced organizers at the beginning of the day. It leaves them feeling "out of sorts" all day.

We appreciate the partnership and stewardship we feel for the children of our community. Together we can see success for all children all year long.

Tamra Baker, principal

Junior Achievement Volunteer Orientation

All Junior Achievement volunteers will have a short mandatory orientation on Wed., Feb. 27, at 2:00 p.m. in the media center at Draper Elementary. Please attend even if you have been to an orientation in the past. You will need to sign for your packet to be sure all packets get to the right people. Thank-you!

Julie Labrum, Jr. Achievement Coordinator

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Correction

Oops! In our last newsletter we forgot to mention Skye Clark, whose entry in music won at Reflections council level and now moves on to regional. Congrats to Skye and all the other Draper Dragons in the Reflections contest!



Gold Medal Schools: Keep Walking the Mile

Draper Elementary teachers and students are to be commended for walking the gold medal mile. As of December 19 they have walked 6,545 miles — well on their way towards the goal of walking 11,500 miles this school year. Follow their travels on the map in the gym. They are currently in Pierre, South Dakota. You can also watch the progress of the dragons scaling the castle displayed on the hall GMS bulletin board.

Raising Ready Readers — And Keeping Them That Way

Tips for reading to and with children in kindergarten through third grade



- Keep reading to your child even when he can read. Choose books that are too difficult or long for him to read alone.
- Try reading books with chapters and talk about what is happening in the story. Encourage your child to make predictions about what will happen next and connect characters or events to those in other books and stories.
- Talk with your child about which stories she likes best. Ask whether she likes adventure stories, mysteries, science fiction, animal stories, or stories

about other children. Encourage her to explain the reasons for her preferences.

- Talk with your child about favorite authors and help him find additional books by those authors.
- Take turns reading a story with your child. Don't interrupt to correct mistakes that do not change the meaning.
- Talk about the meaning of new words and ideas introduced in books. Help your child think of examples of new concepts.
- Enjoy yourself and have fun when you're reading together. The most important thing you can do to help your child become a successful reader is to let him know that you enjoy and value reading.
- Talk with your child about stories using the notions of the beginning, middle, and end of the story to organize thinking and discussion.
- Ask your child to tell why a character took the action that he did. Then ask him what in the story made him come to that conclusion.

Tips for reading to and with children in fourth through sixth grade

- Take turns reading a book with your child.
- Ask your child to compare a book to another familiar story. How are the characters alike or different? Do the stories take place in similar settings? How are the illustrations the same or different?
- Ask what part of the story or book your child liked best and why.
- Ask if your child liked the ending of the story. Why or why not?
- Ask your child what type of mood the story or chapter in a book creates. Ask how the author created that mood. Was it with words? Pictures? Drawings?
- If your child has read more than one book by the same author, ask how the books are similar or different.

Tips for promoting reading by children of all ages

- Set a good example as a reader by reading every day at home, even if it is a magazine or newspaper.
- Make reading fun — a time that both you and your child look forward to spending together.

From the National Education Association,
www.nea.org

